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UP FRONT

Teachers are working hard to keep homebound SPERD students learning..... Page 3

SPORTS

The Minor Ball and football seasons are on hold due to CORVID-19..... Page 7



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Vol. 39 No. 12

Tuesday, March 24, 2020

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SHOPPING LOCAL – Elk Point's Main Street looked quite normal late Friday morning, with business much as usual in local stores and services, although they and some restaurants were reducing the service they could offer while keeping staff and customers safe from the encroaching COVID-19 virus.

Vicki Brooker photo

Town of Elk Point locks doors, cancels meetings

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

After a special meeting via conference call on Monday, March 16, Elk Point town council declared closures of all town-owned facilities, and recommended closure of all recreation and cultural facilities.

Director of Safety and Emergency Management Paul Perrier joined the conversation from St. Paul and said the County of St. Paul had "locked everything up" and sent all possible staff to work from home, with a skeleton staff looking after public works essentials. He indicated that representatives of Alberta Health Services would be coming to St. Paul on Thursday to survey potential sites in case a COVID-19 testing centre is needed.

The closure of Elk Point facilities was next on the agenda, with CAO Ken Gwozdz reporting that it was "business as usual" on essential services performed by the Public Works department, although workers would not go into homes for such reasons as a sewer blockage except in an emergency. The Public Works shop has been closed to the public.

The town's administration office is also closed to the public, with most staff, including recreation director Cristin Tchir, working from home, and Gwozdz said bills for utilities, licenses, etc. can be paid at financial institutions or online, or payments can be dropped through the mail slot by administration office entrance.

(Continued on page 2)

Business no longer as usual in downtown Elk Point

VICKI BROOKER
Elk Point Review

Looking up Elk Point's main street late Friday morning, you'd never know anything was different than usual, with the usual lineups of parked vehicles and 'Open' signs shining from the windows of businesses.

Some of those businesses listed conditions for coming through their door, with 'STOP' signs cautioning patrons not to enter if they have a cough, had been out of the country or had a known exposure to someone diagnosed with COVID-19, signs asking customers to keep a social distance from others, to shop alone and to use debit or credit cards with tap if possible, to help keep their staff safe.

Some had adjusted their hours of operation, some had gaps the stock on their

shelves, or made adjustments to accommodate the needs of staff, but almost all were open and ready to serve their loyal customers.

Magic Pizza was offering takeout only, the Empress Family Restaurant, its lounge closed, was offering both takeout and eat-in service, and Taste Buds was operating as normal, as was Golden Loaf Bakery.

Both ATB Financial and Servus Credit Union were open for business, along with both drugstores, Canada Post, Home Town Grocers, Sew Heavenly Quilting, liquor stores, RONA, Fields, Elk Point Insurance, and the real estate offices. Knotty Boyz Embroidering and Gifts was also open, with limited hours, some staff currently under quarantine due to recent returns from holiday travel

The busiest place of all was Cornerstone Co-op's Elk Point food store, and although there were bare spots on the shelves and signs limiting the purchase of certain items, staff was still smiling and happy to serve. Manager Nathan Parsons admitted that the past week had been challenging, with incoming shipments delayed and not every customer leaving with everything they had hoped to, but said his staff is working hard and coping with the situation. Co-op has set aside the first hour of operation each day for seniors and those needing special attention, but seniors were still evident in the late morning as well, loading up their carts on the usual Friday grocery run.

Outside the downtown core, Wally's Pub and Restaurant, Elk Point Tire, Lakeland Tire, Alberta ATV Salvage and

Repair, Petro Canada and Bumper to Bumper were also open for business.

The Elk Point Review staff is also working from home, with the office closed to the public, but service still available by calling (780) 645-3342 for advertising and by email vbrooker@stpaul.greatwest.ca for news.

But now....

But that was Friday, and just days later, a number of changes have been made. ATB is temporarily closed, with only the ABM available to the public, and Servus Credit Union reducing its hours, as has Cornerstone Co-op's food and liquor stores.

Other changes are being made daily, and for the latest lineup of what's open, please visit our LakelandTODAY website, at lakelandtoday.ca

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Meetings cancelled

(Continued from page 1)

"There will be no more face to face meetings, the town can be reached by email, phone and the mail slot. No one will be allowed in the town office, and the janitorial service has been suspended for 30 days, to prevent coming and going."

Elk Point Volunteer Fire Department will operate as usual, but the fire hall will be closed to everyone except the firefighters.

Council then passed a motion closing those facilities to the public, with essential services to continue.

Other local facilities, including the municipal library, A. G. Ross Arena and riding arena have now been closed, along with the County of St. Paul and Elk Point FCSS office, and the Elk Point and District Further Education had already made the decision to close its doors prior to that meeting. Curling season wound up on the weekend prior to the meeting, but a local group that meets at the rink was to be contacted, along with the Arts and Leisure Centre, to ask that they be closed as well. The Jim Vinge Memorial Hockey Tournament, planned for this coming weekend at the arena has been cancelled.

"We're trying our best," Gwozdz said. "Everything is postponed. It's better to err on the side of caution, and we follow Alberta Health guidelines."

The March 23 meeting of town council has been cancelled, and the April 14 meeting will be held electronically, Gwozdz told the Review on Thursday.

PUBLIC NOTICE

MOTOR VEHICLE DOCUMENT EXTENSION

SERVICE ALBERTA

As part of the Government of Alberta's response to COVID-19, expiry dates for driver's licences, certificates of vehicle registration and other permits, including knowledge and road test permits, have been extended until May 15, 2020.

As per the Operator Licensing and Vehicle Control Regulation, Albertans with expiry dates between March 17, 2020 and May 14, 2020 now have until 11:59 p.m. on May 15, 2020 to renew expiring or expired documents. Residents subject to this extension are encouraged to renew their motor vehicle documents prior to May 15, 2020.

Visit Alberta.ca for additional information.

RCMP suspends front counter services

SGT. D. HENRY

Elk Point RCMP Detachment

Please be aware, in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, all RCMP Detachments are suspending front counter services in order to prevent the spread of the virus. Elk Point Detachment is now included in this instruction.

Until otherwise notified, the front doors of the Detachment are locked. Fingerprinting services are suspended. The Elk Point RCMP Detachment will open Wednesdays for criminal record checks between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. (closed from 12 noon to 1 p.m.), specifically for Elk Point residents needing a criminal

record check for employment purposes.

Inquiries can be made to our Administrative line at 780-724-3964, which will be answered between 8:00am and 4:00pm Monday to Friday. Voicemail available.

For emergencies or police assistance, direct people to 911 or the complaint line at 780-724-3829.

There is a phone on the outside of the Detachment that when picked up will automatically dial the complaint line for police services.

Please be patient as we help the public through this outbreak and reduce the impact it has on our community. Thank you.

Elk Point RCMP arrest four after copper wire theft

ELK POINT RCMP

Review Contributor

On the morning of March 9, 2020 Elk Point RCMP Detachment received a report of a break and enter with theft at a building on the Frog Lake First Nations Reserve.

Later that day, Elk Point and St. Paul RCMP Detachment members along with the Eastern Alberta District Rural Crime Reduction Unit (EADRCRU) executed a search warrant at a residence in Frog Lake where four suspects were taken into custody.

Police located and recovered most of the property that had been stolen from the earlier break and enter and a large amount of what was believed to be stolen industrial grade copper wire. The copper wire was believed to be associated to break-ins and thefts that had been occurring in the area over recent weeks.

John Allan Macphail (52) of Edmonton was charged with breaking and entering into a business and posses-

sion of property obtained by crime over \$5,000. He was released after a judicial hearing and was scheduled to appear in St. Paul Provincial Court on April 16, 2020.

John Tyler Macphail (24) of Edmonton was charged with breaking and entering into a business, possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000 and failing to comply with a probation order. He was remanded into custody after a judicial hearing and was scheduled to appear in St. Paul Provincial Court via CCTV on March 26, 2020.

A 60-year-old male from Frog Lake was also charged with possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000. The accused was released with conditions and cannot be identified at this time pending a swearing of an Information.

The fourth male was from Heinsburg and was only charged with outstanding warrants, with no extra charges from this incident.

Guardian

TM

Feeling better starts here

Capsule Comments

The eye is a transparent organ which can reveal a lot about your general health. An eye specialist looks through the eye to the retina, a delicate multilayered area of specialized cells and blood vessels at the back of the eye. This examination can reveal eye diseases, diabetes, high blood pressure and cholesterol problems. Regular eye exams are important. Have

you had your eyes checked lately?

If your doctor suggests you take an iron supplement, the best absorption will occur when your stomach is empty when your stomach acid level is highest. Taking it with orange juice will also enhance absorption.

Itchy feet can be very bothersome especially if it happens continuously. The cause could be due to diseases like diabetes, psoriasis, athlete's foot or scabies and these must be confirmed by your doctor. Home remedies to treat occasional foot itch can include: cold compresses, oatmeal baths, regular skin moisturizer use and using some products containing menthol or calamine which can also reduce the itch.

March is "Help Fight Liver Disease Month" in Canada. Too much alcohol is only one of over 100 different types of liver disease and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease is the most common affecting over 7 million Canadians. Liver cancer is one of the fastest rising cancers in Canada. Many lives have been saved by liver transplants. Have you signed an organ donor card yet? By the way, the liver cleans itself so don't spend money on products purported to "cleanse the liver". A bar of soap doesn't have to be cleaned.

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We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and remain committed to serving our Elk Point Review customers as we all weather this storm.

Clare Gauvreau

Publisher

cgauvreau@greatwest.ca

Elk Point
Review

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Teachers work hard to keep students learning

JANICE HUSER
Review Contributor

Teachers and students across the province have been faced with a massive challenge to finish the school year outside the traditional classroom, as measures are being taken to slow the spread of COVID-19.

For staff members with the two local school divisions, it was a week of learning, organizing, communicating, and collaborating, as they work toward getting students learning in the comfort of their own homes.

On Friday, the provincial government released details ensuring student learning continues, but also allowing school authorities flexibility to decide what is best for the community. Grade 12 diploma exams were also cancelled.

When teachers arrived to the school Monday morning at St. Paul Elementary, administration carried out some mental health activities "knowing it was going to be hard on our hearts," said Principal Karol Cabaj-Martin. She noted that teachers at the Catholic school started by praying, and throughout the week came together in a variety of positive ways.

Then, "everybody started by doing," she said. Staff worked to wipe things down and clean, held meetings in the gym, and worked toward finding ways to deliver the best education as students now work from home.

For the youngest students, a focus will be put on literacy and numeracy, with teachers delivering about five hours of school work per student, per week. Schools will be offering a variety of online resources for students to access and communicate with their teachers. The school's printer was also working constantly as teachers printed off materials to deliver to students with the rest of their belongings.

As the situation evolved, new ideas came out, said Cabaj-Martin. Teachers will

work toward providing some structure and routine for students and parents, while recognizing that some families have multiple children in school.

"The staff really miss the kids," said the principal.

When asked how parents have reacted to the situation, Cabaj-Martin says there have been varying levels of stress. Some parents have come to the door with a smile, while others appear worried.

"Every day is an evolving situation for every family . . . We are feeling for everybody. . . We are so grateful to the people in the community," said Cabaj-Martin, adding, she is proud to be an administrator within St. Paul Education Regional Division.

For junior high students, education content will focus on math, literacy, science and social studies. Teachers will assign about 10 hours of work per student per week. For high school students, the focus will be on specified and core courses required for high school graduation requirements. Teachers will assign about three hours of work per course per student each week.

"At F.G. Miller we are living by the 'keep calm and carry-on' motto," said Principal Colin Bjorkman. "Our focus is continuing to provide an education to all of our students and to help maintain a sense of normality for them and their families during these very unusual circumstances."

Bjorkman added that teachers take a great deal of pride in how they deliver classes, and they will continue to do so as they move to online learning.

"There are drawbacks, and it's certainly not ideal, but we are committed to doing our best," he said.

A variety of resources are being used to deliver courses, such as Google Meet, with classes taking place at their regular scheduled time even, says Bjorkman. "During

these sessions, our teachers are able to share their SmartBoard screen with their students. They are also able to live stream video and audio."

"There is no doubt some of us have had to step out of our comfort zone concerning technology, but it has been a real pleasure to watch everyone supporting and helping each other to quickly navigate this transition," said Bjorkman.

Some teachers are using Google Classroom and others using ScreenCastify. Some are also recording themselves teaching lessons and uploading those videos to Google Classroom.

"Our students have been very quick to get signed up for their online classes. . . Today it was a pleasure to see that our core high school classes have full attendance," said Bjorkman on Friday. Parents have also been very supportive, and Bjorkman said the school division should be commended for helping get classes up and running as quickly as possible.

The SPERD Board of Trustees is "truly grateful to all of St. Paul Education staff for coming together to ensure our students are receiving the best possible learning during this very challenging and difficult time," said board chair Heather Starosielski. "The way ahead still has many unknowns, but we are confident that we will find solutions and adapt as necessary. With patience and understanding, our community will suc-

ceed through this unprecedented chapter in our world's history."

Francophone School Division

The situation is similar in school divisions across the province. The Conseil scolaire Centre Est oversees a number of Francophone schools in the area, including École du Sommet in St. Paul. Superintendent Dolores Nolette says she's been working closely with principals since the provincial announcement was made that classes would be cancelled.

The school division is taking part in a collaborative initiative with Northern Lights Public Schools and Lakeland Catholic School District, as a way to "harmonize" its approach. She also notes the division is monitoring the health of its staff very closely.

Teachers have been working to identify key concepts, while also working to minimize the slide back that is sometimes experienced when students are away from school for an extended period of time.

"Parents are being very cooperative. And we're very appreciative of that," said Nolette. She noted that joint communications have been sent out to parents by the three school divisions, adding, the situation is an opportunity to "express solidarity."

The province has not given a timeline on when students could expect to return to school as the situation around the COVID-19 virus changes daily.



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alberta.ca/covid19

Alberta

EDITORIAL

Changes come thick and fast

Who would have believed, even a week ago, that times would change to the extent they have in the past week?

This week, for the first time ever, all but one of the stories for this issue were written at home, whether by the editor or contributors, the exception being a story borrowed from the flagship paper in our newspaper family, St. Albert Gazette. Sportshound Doug Bassett and his wife are safely back from his annual trek to Blue Jays' spring training, and while in the required two weeks at home, is sending along his input on that event.

One quick trip to town, where rules regarding keeping a social distance were followed, yielded the front page photo, while other photos were contributed. A number of phone calls and emails gathered other parts of the news we are bringing you this week.

Our office is currently closed, but calling our phone number or Rebecca Berlinguette at the St. Paul Journal will allow you to place advertising as usual. As for news, emails to vbrooker@stpaul.greatwest.ca will work just fine. And please feel free to send us your photos, if you see something you feel will be of interest.

We urge each and every one of you to stay home as much as possible and stay safe. These regulations have been put in place to help us to get back to normal ASAP, although it could well be a new normal by then.

RECREATION CORNER

Mobile escape cancelled

CRISTIN TCHIR

Recreation Coordinator

We are in this together... a phrase we have all heard a lot in the last week, oh, how quickly life has changed for us all. With everything going on it was obvious that the Recreation Committee was going to cancel upcoming events. The mobile escape rooms that we had booked for March 27th has been canceled. We did pay a deposit to book Mobile Escape, and they are honoring it for 365 days vs their regular 14-day policy, we will be having them back so we can attempt to escape, first we must escape this virus!

Right now, we do not know when we will get back to some sort of normal, I can say that with COVID-19 supposedly peaking in April, everything is on hold until May. These have been my thoughts; will we be able to have our Seniors Breakfast and Car Show the first weekend of June? Can we still hold Canada Day celebrations? I do not know those answers but we can all look to China for hope, they are slowly getting back to normal, so we know this will pass, we just need to hunker down, wash our hands, keep social distancing and heed the advice of our government that is trying to protect us and flatten the curve.

Stay safe everyone.

P.S. anyone else see a surge of demand in hand lotion coming next? I might be buying stocks in Aveeno!

The Elk Point Review publishes a variety of opinions as a contribution to debate on matters of public concern. Unsigned editorials express the view of this newspaper's editorial board which includes the Publisher and the Editor. Signed pieces express the view of the individual writer.



WAY BACK WHEN...

Oldest Elk, champion skaters and hockey teams, COPS

HERE'S THE NEWS THAT MADE THE HEADLINES OF THE LAKELAND REVIEW AND ELK POINT REVIEW FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 24 IN...

1985

Canada's oldest active Elk Ron Barwick celebrated his 85th birthday with family, friends and his favourite Big Band music, and was called by Mayor Ed Buck "the most ambitious and aggressive individual in our community." Mary Bennett was appointed to the Northern Alberta Development Committee, replacing Dick Upham of Ashmont as this area's representative.

1990

Elk Point was proud to be the home of provincial champion figure skaters: Tobey Conrad, Elisabeth Ludlage, and Shauna Loughran. A growing problem with NSF cheques was discussed at the chamber of commerce, with RCMP Cst. Doug Huskins offering advice after the telephone fan-out system proved only minimally successful.

1995

A jubilant hometown crowd cheered the Elk Point Bantam Lightning Elks on to their Bantam C Provincial championship in an overtime victory, Conway Roscoe scoring the winning goal to break a 37-minute tie. The Chamber of Commerce would try a new strategy to increase attendance at their meetings, with their first 7:30 a.m. breakfast meeting scheduled for April 5.

2000

Elk Point Community Choir and Friends continued their tradition of excellence with a dinner theatre production of "Fiddler on the Roof," with Gabe Bayduza

in the title role. Elk Point's newly formed Citizens on Patrol Society visited the chamber of commerce to introduce the volunteer group whose aim was to decrease crime and make Elk Point a better place to live.

2005

Elk Point and District Lions received town council's approval for a large lighted sign that included a welcome message, time, temperature and community events, to be located at 50 Ave and Highway 41. The chamber executive, public works superintendent Ron Fraess and partners who would help to make the Iron Horse Trail staging area a reality visited the site for a cold but interesting layout planning session.

2010

Elk Point Skating Club brought back memories of days gone by at their annual carnival as they skated to music from the past six decades, from rock'n'roll to disco and beyond. Fun for children topped the chamber of commerce agenda as they discussed building an Eco Centre-shaped playhouse to raffle.

2015

A full day of eight exciting and crowd-pleasing games played 'just for fun' was in store at A. G. Ross Arena as the two Elk Point Oil Barons teams took on visitors from St. Paul, Mallaig, Myrnam and Wainwright in their second annual and very successful Pond Hockey tournament. The Bantam Avalanche traveled to Cochrane to have one last kick at the cat, playing in one final tournament; not only did they have one last grand finale, they did it in style, going out winning the A final.

Elk Point REVIEW

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Canada

Lakeland College award for 2018 FGM grad

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Hannah Ganske should have been in Lloydminster on March 17 at the Lakeland College Awards Gala, but instead, she was at home in her Beiseker, AB apartment, getting ready for the next day's work at Haighton Auto Restorations.

The gala, where she was to receive the Lakeland College Street Rod Technologists award, acknowledging her leadership, her academic marks from last year and her contribution to the industry in Auto Body, was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The award is quite an accomplishment for a young woman who not only finished her year at Lakeland in the top of her class but is now working at a prestigious restoration shop that recently won the Jim Leslie Memorial Award at World of Wheels in Calgary for the second year in a row when they displayed a 1955 Ford F-100 which also placed first in its class and won the best pro-touring street machine category.

Ganske went to work for Haighton last July, but her interest in auto body dates back to when she was 14 and her dad Richard brought home a rusted hulk of what has now become a show-worthy rat rod.

Working with her dad on the restoration, she first thought she would try out for a career in mechanics, and volunteered at a shop in Elk Point.

When she completed Grade 12 in February 2018, "nobody was hiring, so I applied at Signatures Auto Body, and worked both there and at Elk Point Library," Ganske says. She also signed up to study at Lakeland College's one-year course in Street Rod Technology.

After completing the course, she returned to Elk Point and worked at Black Ace in St. Paul, until a friend who lived in Calgary suggested she move south.

She was hired at the Haighton shop and found an apartment nearby and is thoroughly enjoying her work there.

Bringing vintage vehicles back to show condition is not just a matter of Bondo and rust removal for Ganske, who says, "Every car has a story," and she wants that story to have a happy ending. Having also enjoyed art class in school, she says she gets to use what she learned there in her chosen trade as well, as she works to bring the vehicles back to show condition.

Last June she attended the Elk Point Auto Club Show and Shine, and "the first vehicle I ever had apart was at the show," she says with pride.



AUTO RESTORER Hannah Ganske proudly displays the Jim Leslie Memorial Award trophy at Calgary's World of Wheels show, alongside the 1955 Ford F-100 that won the prestigious award for her employers, Haighton Auto Restorations of Beiseker.

Photo submitted

FGM 1991 grad honoured on International Women's Day

ANNA BOROWIESKI
St. Albert Gazette

The last two years have been a time of pain and progress for women's equality. All too often, disturbing news events overshadow the real achievements women make at both the grass-roots and international level.

While media continues to discuss the lack of gender equality, women far from the limelight are taking on leadership roles and lending their expertise to assist those in need.

Every year, St. Albert Baha'i celebrates International Women's Day with a special salute to five role models, five unstoppable women whose passion and dedication inspire all who know them.



DR. KIM BUGERA has gained international acclaim for her efforts, and is a prime example of how F. G. Miller High School students can make their mark in the world.

Photo courtesy St. Albert Gazette

The 2020 women creating new pathways are educator Françoise Ruban, interfaith activist Karen Gall, victim services director Kristine McDonnell, optometrist Dr. Kim Bugera and visual artist Shairl Honey.

Each of these five women has demonstrated through their own example that women are strong leaders working to improve the conditions of others in myriad ways.

International optometrist Dr. Kim Bugera grew up on a farm near Elk Point, Alta. As a child, she needed glasses and the 30-minute drive to St. Paul for an eye exam seemed to take forever.

"We had mountain ash in our yard. I remember the experience of getting my first pair of prescription glasses

and realizing that before I couldn't see the berries on the mountain ash," said Bugera. Her mission in life is to provide affordable vision care for all, something she considers a basic human right.

Bugera graduated from the University of Waterloo in 1996 as a Doctor of Optometry. Today, she operates Capital Vision Care in Morinville beside her husband, also an optometrist. Grateful for the blessings in life, she frequently volunteers at Boyle McCauley Health Centre providing eye care for those at risk.

But it was Bugera's first international excursion in 1998 to provide eye care to the impoverished in Dominica that changed the trajectory of her life.

(Continued on page 6)

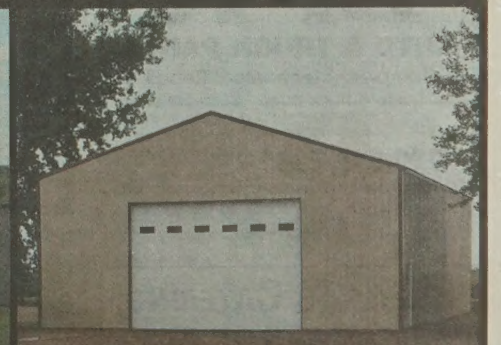
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RUSHANTHI KESUNATHAN
Journal Staff

Council appointed Tammy Goddu from Investigative Services as the Enforcement Officer for the County of St. Paul for a period from March 3 to Dec. 31. Goddu took the official oath of office during the County of St. Paul's meeting last Tuesday.

Goddu will have a number of powers and duties including conducting routine patrols, responding to and investigating complaints and alleged breaches of bylaws, and preserving and maintaining the public peace.

Safety code services

Council voted to approve Superior Safety Codes for safety code services; the company was given a four-year contract starting on April 1.

Krystle Fedoretz, director of planning and development told council that she evaluated the price from the standpoint of residents. County administra-

tion estimates the approximate value of this contract will be \$70,000 for 2020.

Street lighting

Council approved eight of 11 street-light requests.

Three in the French Quarter subdivision, and one in each of the Paziuk, Stillwater, Santé Hills, Lac Sante and Floatingstone subdivisions were approved.

A motion for a light in the Perch Lake area was approved at an alternate location, north of an existing pole.

"Public Works went out to look at a number of requests," CAO Sheila Kitz told council.

She also noted the cost to put up lights on an existing pole could range between \$2,000 and \$2,300 per light.

"To put up a new pole it would be almost \$5,000," she added. "It's been a while since we've done any... The last time it was done, costs were about \$1,400."

Whatsapp signage

Council voted to approve the Neighbourhood Watch group for Bayview and Ashmont Beach, to install Whatsapp signs on County of St. Paul property, as long as the cost is covered by the organization, and locations are approved by Public Works.

The organization had requested the County provide the posts and install the signs at the locations. However, Kitz told council that approving a request like this could result in a volume of similar requests from others in the area, which could increase costs to Public Works' operating budget.

The cost of installation would have been about \$1,905. The organization uses the Whatsapp messaging system in an attempt to detour criminal activities in their area. The group has the funding to purchase four signs displaying the Whatsapp logo, according to the county agenda package.

Community support

Council moved a motion to approve a request from the St. Paul Gymnastics Club, for two campsites at Westcove campground to include in the organization's family camping package to be sold at a live auction during an upcoming fundraiser.

Council has previously donated two powered sites for two nights at the Westcove campground in the past. The club's seventh Flippin' Funny fundraiser is slated for May 2, at the Rec. Centre.

Coun. Kevin Wirsta's request for the County to sponsor the beef on a bun for the District 4-H Show and Sale scheduled for June 1 was carried. The cost for the event is \$1,700.

Spring Gathering

Coun. Darrell Younghans will be attending the 2020 Northeast Spring Gathering set for April 21 to 24 in Lac La Biche. Younghans sits on the FCSS Board. Total costs for the trip is about \$1,100.

1991 Grad honoured

(Continued from page 5)

"We wanted to travel, but we were right out of school and didn't have much money. We went on a trip to Dominica. Everyone wants to give back and I think the best way to do it is to share a skill. I understand the impact on a person's life when losing their vision - the isolation, the depression, the frustration. After that trip, if we did well, we would take a trip every year," Bugera said.

In the past two decades, she has also provided eye care to the disadvantaged in the Philippines, Cambodia, Kenya, Peru, Ecuador and Tanzania. Many are remote locations such as a Maasai tribe in Kenya or the isolated Chloe Island in Tanzania where electricity is nonex-

istent and a diagnosis is made with basic tools.

One of her proudest achievements was not only providing free eye exams to hundreds in Malawi, but also teaching aspiring young doctors in the Mzuzu University Optometry program.

"It's the only school in southern Africa and it graduates 50 people a year. Graduates can set up their own clinics and pass on the knowledge."

At the moment, negotiations are underway to set up eye clinics in sea cans.

"You realize how lucky we are and it puts everything into perspective."

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DAPHNE SCHNURER
Elk Point Municipal Library

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780-614-5959**Minor Ball, football on hold****MARGARET BAYDUZA**
Elk Point Minor BallWith the public health crisis over
Covid-19, we do not know what is in
store for this ball season. Baseball
Alberta has suspended all sanctioned
ball activity in Alberta until April
30, and Softball Alberta has done the
same until April 14. Please check
their websites for their most cur-
rent updates. Please note that since
all sanctioned activity is suspended,
there is no insurance coverage for
any ball activity at this time. The
suspension covers ball practices,
games, and clinics (player, coach,
umpire).EPMB has cancelled/postponed
our March 30 registration night.
However, we will continue to accept
registrations electronically. Please
complete the registration form and
send it via email to elkpointminor-
ball@gmail.com or via mail to Box
908, Elk Point AB, T0A 1A0. Weare NOT requiring registration fees or
deposit cheques to be provided at this
time. Note that any registration fees
already paid by cheque will NOT be
deposited until we know for sure that
we will have a ball season.Given the uncertainty right now,
it is likely that if and when the prov-
incial ball suspensions are lifted, we
will have very short notice to get our
teams together and the league up and
running, especially if we end up with
a shortened ball season. Therefore
please get your registration forms in
as soon as possible. Forms are avail-
able at:Baseball - <http://baseballalberta.com/article/58776>Softball - <https://softballalberta.ca>Pumas - <https://drive.google.com/open>We will likely need to give team
numbers to the league within two or
three days of the suspension being
lifted. Provincial teams still need tobe registered with Baseball Alberta
by April 6.If you have any questions about
registration, please email elkpoint-minorball@gmail.com or contact
Dennell at 780-614-0789.**Football, too**Football Alberta has suspended all
football activities due to the current
public health crisis. As with all the
other sports, we do not know when the
suspension will be lifted or what that
means for our upcoming season.Under normal circumstances, we'd
have registration in April, spring camp
in May and then football season would
begin with practices mid August and
games in September.As of right now, everything is on
hold until Football Alberta lifts the
suspension. If anyone has a kid who
is interested in joining football, I'd be
happy to connect you with our general
manager to get you added to the email
lists and to add you to our Facebook
groups so you can be informed.**OK Blue Jays, let's play ball!****doug
BASSETT**

Review Sports

You never know what you got until
it's gone! Hopefully the pandemic
ends before the ball season is lost.
I feel very fortunate that the spring
training lasted as long as it did. We
managed to make it to six out of seven
games that we had tickets for before
spring training was suspended.This was our seventh annual Blue
Jays spring training trip to Dunedin,
Florida. The new, completely reno-
vated TD Ballpark is just beauti-
ful. They added extra seating and a
360-degree (the Orange Trail) ele-
vated walking path all the way around
the outfield fence. You can stop and
watch the pitchers over top of the
bullpens, or watch the game fromthe brand new WestJet flight deck in
right center field. There's lots more
food and beverage concessions, more
and bigger bathrooms, a tiki bar and a
kids' play area.We like to watch the game from
section 207 that is directly behind
the backstop about 10 to 15 rows up.
This is where all the scouts sit, usu-
ally about 10 or 12 of them on any
given day. They sit with radar guns
and stop watches writing down notes,
charting the speed of the delivery and
the speed of the ball. Seems like old
school, but very few of them have
laptops. It must still work. Most of
them sit with slacks, long sleeve shirts
and safari hats. Donna and I sit there
in our shorts, tee shirts, sunglasses
and ball caps- and of course sunscreen.
It can get plenty hot by the middle of
the game with the sun beating directly
down on you. Donna will take a break
about the fourth inning and find some
shade. Not me. I love the sun and hate
to miss even one pitch. The ball gamestarts at 1:07 p.m. I walk down to the
park when the gates open at 10:30
a.m. to get autographs on baseballs to
bring home. Donna shows up at 12:30
with most of the rest of the crowd
coming at that time, enough time for
a burger or Italian sausage for lunch
before the game starts.Up until this year you could lean
anywhere on the first or third base
fence line all the way from the du outs
to the outfield fence. This was the best
place to ask the players for autographs
and hang out when they are doing bat-
ting practice. The trick is to be patient
and polite.Some guys are there to get balls
and cards and other things signed to
sell. The players try to avoid them.
They really like kids, and old guys
like me who hang out with the kids.
Mine are not for sale. I like to give
some to kids back home and other
good friends. And of course I have to
keep a few for myself. Haha!

(To be continued...)

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Elk Point Review

With the reality of what is unfolding around the world we are starting to realize the impacts of what the new normal will mean for most of us in the coming months. The disruptions to our routines and our families will be felt by everyone.

As a community newspaper we have a front row seat to how the lives of those in our community have been affected. In an effort to protect our staff and the people we deal with on a daily basis we are conducting interviews and sales calls over the phone and via email. Our office has been closed to the public and will remain so as long as it is deemed necessary.

We are committed to bringing you the news as it happens. We have a fully staffed news team that is working to make sure you have reliable and trustworthy information. Our content is available by our print edition, our e-edition as well as at LakelandToday.ca. We have seen a massive spike in our readership over the past few weeks as residents of the Elk Point/St. Paul region and beyond try to gain an understanding of how our community is preparing. We will continue our efforts to make sure you have this information.

Our sales team continues to work with local businesses as their needs evolve. We understand that these unprecedented events mean real adjustments will be needed. Although our physical office is closed we are available to help your business. Our page views on LakelandToday.ca has reached 330,494 during the past 30 days from daily readers looking to get information on what is happening locally. We can work to design online and print strategies to keep your customers informed during this time. We can connect you to the community. Now more than ever we want to encourage people to shop local. Local businesses who choose to advertise online and in the print edition allow us to continue to do the work we do to keep the community informed. These local businesses are our neighbours and they too need our help.

I want to thank the entire community for the trust you have placed in your local community newspaper. Thank you for letting us be your source for accurate information. Thank you to officials who continue to provide us accurate information to pass along to our readers. Thank you for letting us tell your story. Be safe, shop local and don't forget to smile and wave hello.

Clare Gauvreau
Publisher
Elk Point Review